



## COOPER RIVER RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

**Location:** Camden County, New Jersey

**Restoration Type:** Fish Passage / Riparian

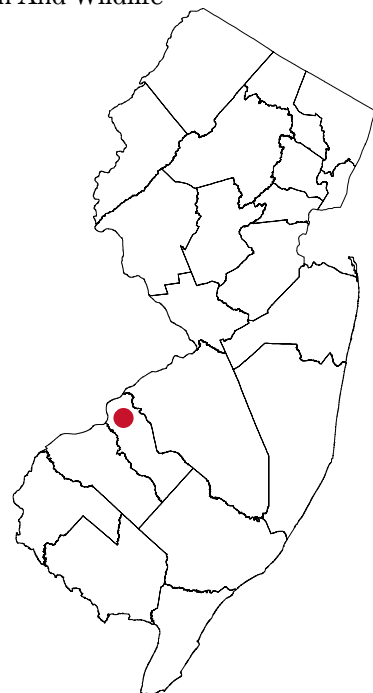
**Project Type:** Coastal Program & Partners for Fish And Wildlife

The Cooper River is a tributary of the Delaware River, an internationally recognized riverine system. The Cooper River is important for recreational fishing, anadromous and catadromous fish, migratory birds, and other wildlife. Development since Colonial times has eliminated migratory access to former spawning and rearing habitat in Delaware River tributaries for some species. Improving fish access into these tributaries benefits the entire marine ecology and economy of the Delaware River Basin.

The Cooper River Project provides access to spawning and rearing habitat for migrating fish that historically spawned in Delaware River tributaries including: alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), and striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*). The installation of

the two fish ladders (Wallworth Lake and Evans Pond) provides access to approximately four miles of river to migratory fish.

The riparian restoration component of the project stabilized and restored over 2 miles of riparian habitat, improved habitat for several species of fish, improved water quality in the Cooper River, and provided habitat for migratory birds. This part of the project restored riparian habitat (via bioengineering) to benefit fish and wildlife, including: alewife, blueback herring, American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*), white perch (*Morone americana*), and migratory birds e.g., osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). The project extends the successful riparian restoration work previously accomplished through the Fisheries Across America and Partners for Fish



and Wildlife programs, which have documented ecological benefits and have been used for public outreach and education.



D.J. Monette/USFWS

Volunteers and Service personnel planting riparian vegetation



Watercolor Artwork, Duane Raven/USFWS

Alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*)



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**New Jersey Field Office**  
 927 North Main Street, Building D  
 Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232  
 609/646 9310; 609/646 0352 Fax  
**Federal Relay Service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing 1 800/877 8339**  
 email at [njfieldoffice@fws.gov](mailto:njfieldoffice@fws.gov)  
 web site at <http://njfieldoffice.fws.gov>  
 August 2003

### Partners

- **Camden County Department of Parks** [Landowner]
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network
- Public Service Electric and Gas Company,
- Fish America Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region III)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service



Gene Nieminen/USFWS

The Cooper River Fishway Restoration Team receives a **Coastal America Award** May 2003 (pictured here at Evan's pond dam)